

Issues Relating to Legislative Committees

June 2012

Legislative Council

Indiana Legislative Services Agency

Legislative Evaluation and Oversight

The Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis is a division within the Legislative Services Agency that performs fiscal, budgetary, and management analysis. Within this office, analysts evaluate state agency programs and activities as set forth in IC 2-5-21.

The goal of legislative evaluation and oversight is to improve the legislative decision-making process and, ultimately, state government operations by providing information about the performance of state agencies and programs through evaluation.

The office prepares reports for the Legislative Council in accordance with IC 2-5-21. The published reports describe state programs, analyze management problems, evaluate outcomes, and include other items as directed by the Legislative Evaluation and Oversight Policy Subcommittee of the Legislative Council. The report is used by an evaluation committee to determine the need for legislative action.

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Preface

Each year, the Legislative Services Agency prepares reports for the Legislative Council in accordance with IC 2-5-21. As directed by Legislative Council Resolution 11-03, this report is a study of the potential reorganization of summer study committees.

This report contains a comparison with other states with similar legislator workload.

We gratefully acknowledge all those who responded to our questions concerning legislative study committees or who assisted in the preparation of this report.

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The Legislative Council directed the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) in LCR 11-03 to study the potential reorganization of summer study committees into a group of topical committees and the elimination of unnecessary study committees. Through a review of data from the past 21 interim sessions, LSA found evidence of uneven distribution of additional study topics among the topical areas and an overlap of the committees' areas of interest.

A 1990 review of Indiana interim history finds that one stated purpose for interim study committees was to focus on matters that had stalled in the first regular session of a two year biennium and help expedite a legislative solution for the second regular session. Although this idea received high ratings in a survey of legislators, objectives for the interim session have not been articulated in a formal way by the Legislative Council or the General Assembly. In order to develop this report, however, some potential objectives and criteria for reorganizing the committees and the additional topic assignments were needed. A review of general literature concerning interim sessions indicated two potential objectives for interim committees that became the focus in this report:

- (1) Educating a greater number of legislators on state and local issues.
- (2) Finding legislative solutions to issues that could not be resolved during regular session.

In some ways these objectives are in conflict with one another. The number of legislators educated on an issue is facilitated by appointing members who are not involved with the topical area during session. Conversely, if the goal is to expedite legislation, it is better to have the legislators who work in the topical area serve on the interim committee to get agreement on legislation prior to session. In the alternatives suggested, these conflicts are identified and addressed.

In addition to these larger objectives, other goals for the reorganization of interim committees used in this report include:

- (1) Reducing redundancy and workload for the legislative leadership or the legislator membership, or both.
- (2) Reducing complexity by reducing committee subject overlap.
- (3) Controlling interim committee costs.

For any change to the interim process to be effective in reducing complexity and redundancy, establishing the main purpose for interim study committees or the goals to be accomplished by funding these committees is the first step. This report, based on information from Indiana and other comparable states, discusses the pros and cons of several alternatives for streamlining Indiana's interim study committee process.

Throughout the paper, the term "committee" is used as shorthand for a council, commission, or committee. [In Indiana there is no distinction between committees, councils, and commissions.] The report focuses on legislative committees, both permanent and temporary. Although some of the permanent committees are authorized to meet at times of the year other than the interim, the committees discussed in this report are the ones that generally meet during the interim and are under the control of the Legislative Council.

Statutory Versus Temporary Committees. Legislative interim committees are committees controlled by the Legislative Council, and they are established by statute in the Indiana Code or in noncode acts (temporary statute). Legislative interim committees may also be established through Legislative Council resolution (LC resolution).

Committees established by LC resolution are usually temporary committees established to study a particular subject. Most often these committees have an expiration date within a few years of their establishment date. Generally, once a committee is established in the Code, it is permanent, at least, has a longer lifespan than a committee established by resolution.

Most legislative committees are statutory committees, as seen in Table 1, which shows the average annual number of legislative committees by enabling authority for the 21-year period from 1990 to 2011. Once a statutory committee is established, in most cases, the committee may meet each interim, unless it does not receive its full appointment of members or the chairperson chooses not to convene the committee.

**Table 1. Committees by Enabling Authority
(21-Year Average from 1990 to 2011)**

Legislative Committees Enabling Authority	Historical Annual Number
Statutory	37
LC resolution	5

Committees established in statute limit the Legislative Council's ability to reduce the number of committees. Legislation is required to terminate a statutory committee. Additionally, the use of noncode statutes has decreased in recent years.

Interim Committee Meetings. [A complete description of the interim committees that met in 2011, including the committee costs, membership composition, statutory and/or Legislative Council assigned responsibilities is available in Appendix A.]

Interim Committee Budget Limits		
Interim	15 or Less Members	16 or More Members
2001	\$9,000	\$18,500
2002	6,000	12,000
2003	8,000	15,000
2004	8,000	15,000
2005	9,500	16,500
2006	9,500	16,500
2007	9,500	16,500
2008	9,500	16,500
2009	9,500	16,500
2010	9,500	16,500
2011	9,500	16,500

Interim committee meetings are scheduled at the discretion of the chair and must be conducted within the budget established by the Legislative Council. Most recently, the interim committee budget limit has been established to afford committees three meetings per interim. The actual cost will depend on the number of members attending each meeting and the distance they travel. (Legislators are entitled to per diem and mileage expenses.) Meetings that would result in exceeding the budget must be approved by legislative leaders, as do other expenditures such as speaker fees. Most meetings take place in state-owned facilities or other facilities that do not charge a fee.

The interim committee budgets have been fairly constant during the 11-year period for which there are data. From 2001 to 2002, the limit imposed by Legislative Council decreased. It increased slightly in 2003 and 2004. And then, for the past seven years since 2005, the established budgets for interim study committees were \$9,500 per interim for committees with fewer than 16 members and \$16,500 per interim for committees with 16 members or more.

2011 Interim Compared to Previous Interims. Table 2 presents information on the committees that met during the 2011 interim, and makes comparisons with the average performance of interim committees over a 21-year period from 1990 to 2010 for meeting data and a 10-year period from 2001 to 2010 for cost data.

Looking at historical records concerning interim committees, the 2011 interim was fairly typical. On average over a 10-year period, each interim committee spent about \$5,000 with the total average annual expenditure of about \$159,350 overall. In 2011, the average committee cost was higher at \$5,579, and the total committee expenses were \$167,377. Mileage reimbursement drove the increased cost with more reimbursement in 2011 than the historical average.

Table 2. 2011 Interim Performance Compared with Historical Data (Meeting Data from 1990 to 2010 and Cost Data from 2001 to 2010)		
	2011 Interim	21-Year or 10-Year Average
No. of Committees (that met)	30	32
Total Interim Costs	\$167,377	\$159,350
Cost/Committee	\$5,579	\$5,000
Exceeded 75% of Budget Limit		
Less than 16 members	8	10
16 members or more	3	1
Number of Meetings	88	103
Meetings/Committee	3	3
Average Length of Meeting	2:03	2:09

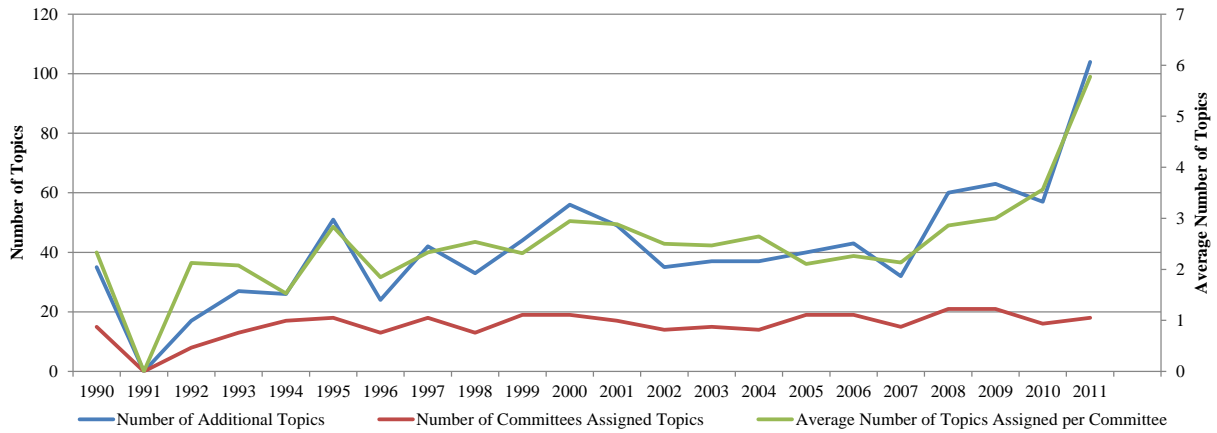
Each year, about a third of all committees used at least 75% of the budget limits established by the Legislative Council. Committees with smaller membership more frequently reached this mark; however, in 2011, three committees with 16 or more members spent more than 75% of the budget allowance.

In 2011, there were 88 meetings, slightly less than the average annual number between 1990 and 2010, which was 103. However, in 2011, there were on average three meetings per committee, which is the annual average over the previous 21-year period. Committee meetings lasted on average about two hours in 2011, consistent with the overall average from 1990 to 2010.

Additional Topics. Each year, the Legislative Council assigns topics to statutory legislative interim committees that are in addition to the topics assigned by statute to the committees. These additional topics are assigned by LC resolution. Each LC resolution indicates the source of the topic, which may include enrolled acts, House and Senate bills, concurrent and simple resolutions, and requests from individual legislators.

As seen in Chart 1, in the period between 1990 and 2011, the number of committees to which additional topics have been assigned has been relatively constant. No assignments were evident for 1991, and there appears to be a reduced number in 1992. In 1990, the Legislative Council undertook a two-year review of the interim committee process, and there may have been a moratorium on study committees in 1991, which impacted the number of assignments in 1992. The number of topics assigned to each committee has increased in recent years.

Chart 1. Additional Topics Assigned by Committee



Additional Topics Assigned by Committee. Table 3 shows the additional topics assigned to interim committees. The majority (62.1%) of the additional topics are assigned to non-statutory committees. Not every permanent statutory committee has received an additional topic to study. Permanent statutory committees' charges are included in their enabling statute, and additional topics are not assigned as often to these committees. The charges to committees may be stated in the statute and repeated in LC resolutions. Some interim committees only receive assignments through the additional topics assigned by LC resolution.

Four permanent statutory committees are assigned more additional topics than other committees. The Commission on State Tax and Financing Policy has been assigned 10.9% of the additional topics assigned over the last 21 years, and has received additional assignments in 18 of the 21 years studied. The Health Finance Commission was assigned 6.5% of the total additional topics and received assignments in 16 of the 21 years studied. The Pension Management Oversight Committee with 4.8% of the additional topics assigned and had assignments in 18 of the 21 years, and the Natural Resources Study Committee had 4.3% of the additional topics assigned with assignments in 16 of the 21 years.

Table 3. Additional Assigned Topics by Committee Over a 21-Year Period

Assigned Committee	Additional Topics Assigned	Percent of Total	No. of Years (out of 21 years)	Average per Year
<i>Temporary Committees</i>	566	62.1%	21	27.0
<i>Statutory Committees (Executive and Legislative)</i>				
Administrative Rules Oversight Committee	3	0.3%	3	1.0
Census Data Advisory Committee	8	0.9%	5	1.6
Child Custody and Support Advisory Committee	7	0.8%	5	1.4
Code Revision Commission	4	0.4%	4	1.0
Commission for Women*	1	0.1%	1	1.0
Commission on Higher Education*	2	0.2%	1	2.0
Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs	5	0.5%	4	1.3
Commission on State Tax and Financing Policy	99	10.9%	18	5.5
Counterterrorism and Security Council	1	0.1%	1	1.0
Criminal Law and Sentencing Policy Study Committee	23	2.5%	2	11.5
Education Roundtable*	1	0.1%	1	1.0
Environmental Policy Commission	2	0.2%	1	2.0
Health Finance Commission	59	6.5%	16	3.7
Health Policy Advisory Committee	3	0.3%	2	1.5
Interim Study Committee on Insurance	6	0.7%	1	6.0
Natural Resources Study Committee	39	4.3%	16	2.4
Pension Management Oversight Commission	44	4.8%	18	2.4
Probate Code Study Commission	7	0.8%	6	1.2
Regulatory Flexibility Committee	24	2.6%	12	2.0
State Budget Committee*	1	0.1%	1	1.0
State Fair Advisory Committee	1	0.1%	1	1.0
Tourism Council*	1	0.1%	1	1.0
Unemployment Insurance Oversight Committee	<u>5</u>	<u>0.5%</u>	2	2.5
<i>Total Statutory Committees</i>	<u>346</u>	<u>37.9%</u>	--	--
Total	912	100.0%		
*Not under the control of Legislative Council.				

Other States

The National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) produced a white paper categorizing the states by legislator work load, composition, and compensation. In this 2009 report, one category of states was defined as having legislators spending half of a full-time position on legislative work, requiring additional sources of income to make a living, and having smaller staffs. Indiana was placed in this category.

LSA contacted other legislatures in this category to learn more about their interim processes. These states include Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia. [NCSL information concerning Rhode Island was unavailable, and LSA was unable to talk with legislative staff.] Each state has its own unique way of handling interim committee work and faces different sets of constraints. However, there were several commonalities, including the expansion of interim committees and topics over time and the need to hold these in check, particularly in states with small staffs and/or budget issues.

The following information highlights ideas from other states for limiting topics and/or committees. In this review it was found that although there is a framework aimed at reducing the number of committees, there is usually a workaround to address pressing issues. In most cases, the workaround allows for more committees to be established.

Idaho - Concurrent Resolutions. In Idaho, limited staff resources have led the legislature to limit interim study committees to those enabled by the unanimous consent of the legislature. A concurrent resolution must pass both chambers but does not require signature by the governor. The concurrent resolution specifies the framework and questions that the interim committee will examine. However, this is not the exclusive method for topic selection. The legislative leadership can create task forces to study topics of its choosing, and there are statutory committees that meet as well.

A review of the Idaho legislature website indicates that two interim committees met during summer and fall of 2011. Based on minutes available on the Idaho website, the Natural Resources Interim Committee met once for two days and the Energy, Environment, and Technology Interim Committee met four times, with three meetings being two days long. In addition, two task forces met during the 2011 interim. One, the ATV Task Force, met twice, and the Health Care Task Force met twice, but had meetings posted for five total meetings.

Georgia – Legislation Driven. The Georgia legislature approves bills and resolutions with the purpose, membership, budget, and number of days a study committee will meet during the interim. The bill or resolution states the purpose of the studies and sets forth the number of meeting days (usually three to five meeting days) that will be funded to complete the studies. Usually the resolutions allow for additional meeting days only if additional funds are authorized. In addition, the House or the Senate may establish their own single-chamber committees.

In 2011, Georgia had nine special study committees, with seven having bills as the enabling document and two established in resolutions. In addition, there were two senate-only study committees and two house-only study committees.

Kansas - Approved Meeting Days. The Kansas Legislative Coordinating Committee (LCC) appoints special committees that meet during the interim to consider topics assigned by the LCC. There are also statutory joint committees that meet in the interim and may be assigned topics by the LCC in addition to the issues prescribed in the committee's enabling statute, just as in Indiana. For both types of committees, the LCC approves the number of days the committee may meet.

A concurrent resolution adopted by the legislature is one source for additional topics. Studies may also be recommended by a member of the LCC or requested by one or more legislators, legislative committees, or the governor. Most frequently, however, the request comes from a committee chair. The requestor, with the assistance of the Legislative Research Department, estimates the number of days needed to cover the topic to include in the request. The LCC may agree with, increase, or decrease the number. A committee that has used up its days, but still has unfinished business, may request additional days. The LCC meets periodically during the interim to consider additional day requests.

A schedule of LCC-approved 2011 meeting days shows the authorization of 65 meeting days for 20 committees. For the 2011 interim, the LCC resolution assigned nine approved interim topics for five different committees, only one of which appears to be a special committee.

Nevada - Approved Meeting Days and Committee Budgets. One difference between the Nevada legislature and the Indiana General Assembly is that the Nevada legislature meets every other year and has a 20-month interim. The interim committees are primarily statutory, but some committees are formed specifically to conduct more-focused studies of issues of concern. It is estimated that the committees meet between three and six days during the interim. The Nevada Legislative Commission establishes the budgets for the study committees based upon the number of meetings deemed necessary to cover the assigned topics. Interim studies may be assigned by resolutions or bills, or may be requested by the Commission.

Meeting during the Nevada 2011-2012 interim were the two interim committees responsible for administration of the legislature: the Legislative Commission and the Interim Financial Committee. Also, 15 statutory committees and 5 specially appointed committees met during the 2011-2012 interim.

Maine - Joint Committees. Maine's interim committee system includes two types of committees: joint committees and blue ribbon commissions. As in Indiana, the joint committees facilitate the legislative session by allowing legislators to form agreement on potential solutions during the interim. In contrast, more recently in Maine, stakeholders (nonlegislators) have been added as voting members of some interim committees known as blue ribbon commissions, committees of review, and task forces.

In 2011, there were 11 committees authorized and assigned studies. Of those, three were joint committees, five were entities with nonlegislators, and three were ongoing study commissions.

New Mexico – Work Plans. In New Mexico, a committee is appointed and the committee chair and cochair meet with Legislative Council Service to prepare a committee work plan. The New Mexico Legislative Council reviews the plan and may make additions or adjustments. The committees are created by statute or by the Legislative Council. The work plans may be more or less detailed, and each concludes with the approved meeting dates for the interim.

Fifteen committees met during the 2011 interim. Of those, eight were statutory committees and seven were created by the Legislative Council.

West Virginia – Interim Weeks. West Virginia schedules three-day periods in which interim committees may meet. Not every committee meets during each time period, and not every committee meets for the entire period. This approach is endorsed by NCSL for states with citizen legislators as a way for the legislators to better plan for absences from work to attend interim meetings. An example of the West Virginia 2012 interim meeting calendar is presented.

2012 Interim Committee Meetings

May 14 - 16, 2012
June 25 - 27, 2012
July 23 - 25, 2012
August 13 - 15, 2012
September 10 - 12, 2012
October 8 - 10, 2012
November 26 - 28, 2012
December 10 - 12, 2012
January 7 - 9, 2013
February 10 - 12, 2013

Alternatives

Developing Topical Committees. Reducing the number of study committees and replacing existing study committees with topical committees could accomplish several objectives, including elimination of unnecessary committees.

By reducing the number of study committees, staff may be reassigned and give additional support to the reduced number of committees. Most interim committees have two staff assigned: one attorney and one fiscal analyst. Reducing the number of committees could result in staff reassignments and provide more support for short studies or evaluations to support the work of the committee.

However, fewer committees may lead to the allocation of more study topics to some committees, meaning that these committees may need longer or more frequent meetings. Based on the average meeting time data, increasing meeting length would be an option, and with fewer committees there may be resources available to hold more meetings as needed.

There are several ways in which the number of committees may be reduced. No matter what method is chosen, reorganization and reduction in the number of committees could require repeal or amendment of some current statutory committees and the expiration of some current interim study committees.

Background on Proposed Topical Area Committees. To model potential topical area committees, the additional topics assigned to legislative committees by LC resolution from 1990 to 2011 were reviewed. Additional topics assigned is one measure of committee workload. Another is topic complexity which is not easily measured. In some cases, a large subject may be expressed in one single encompassing issue, such as the charge to the 2009 Criminal Code Evaluation Commission to “Evaluate the criminal laws of Indiana”. On the other hand, a large subject may be broken into several assignments. For example, the following were each treated as a separate topic in the directive to the 2011 Natural Resources Committee.

- Options to increase and enhance the recreational opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat at Versailles Lake.
- Options to increase the volume of water in Versailles Lake, including transforming Versailles Lake into a reservoir.
- Potential funding sources to pay for any recommended changes made to Versailles Lake.
- The present and future use of Versailles Lake to meet the needs of the public water supply of the surrounding communities.
- Any other topic related to Versailles Lake or the public water supply of surrounding communities.

Establishing topical subject areas based upon history is not necessarily predictive of the issues that will be “hot” in the future. A topic may be assigned for review several years in a row and then disappear, because it is resolved either by legislation or some other means of resolution.

Method. First, LSA staff classified the 912 additional topics assigned between 1990 and 2011 into subject areas using the titles of the Indiana Code as an index. The topics were categorized into each of the 30 active titles in the Indiana Code [Title 1 contains only general provisions and was not used to classify topics.] Over the entire 21-year period, the number of topics per title ranges between 2 and 88, with topics most frequently studied being related to Taxation (Title 6), Human Services (Title 12), and Education (Title 20).

Next, the number of committees was reduced to the very minimum number of committees possible based on the standing committees that hear legislation involving all parts of the Indiana Code during session. The

House of Representatives has 23 standing committees, and the Senate has 19, not counting the parliamentary procedure committees and subcommittees. All together, the standing committees of the House and the Senate cover the same subject areas; however, the committees in one chamber do not directly correspond to those in the other chamber, and in many cases the standing committees have overlapping scope. Using the standing committees as a model, the subject areas were reduced from 30 subject areas based on Indiana Code title to 13 larger topical areas that would represent significantly fewer committees.

Finally, the 13 topical areas were reviewed to determine if there was sufficient coverage of topics, and it was felt that 16 topical area committees could best represent one potential organization of topical area committees.

Reorganization Alternatives. The potential reorganization of committees into topical area committees could be accomplished either by combining standing committees into joint interim committees or by redefining and broadening the charge of existing statutory and interim committees to create specialized summer study committees. Table 4 shows the potential topical committees and possible combinations that could achieve the reorganization. [Note: Several committees are cited in multiple topical areas because the topics covered by the committee could be applied to more than one topical area.]

Table 5 shows how reducing the number of interim committees could change some of the key committee statistics. Some of the assumptions underlying the table are shown as well. It is important to note that under the current organization of interim committees members may have overlapping committee meetings and receive only reimbursement for one meeting a day. As a result, current organization costs appear somewhat lower than the proposed options because the model assumes all members will attend each meeting. More of the benefits and limitations of the two alternative methods of reorganization are discussed here.

Option 1 - Joint Standing Committees Interim Study. Combining the standing committees would be similar to several existing joint committees like the Joint Study Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Assessment and Solutions, which is made up of the House Standing Committee on Roads and Transportation and the Senate Standing Committee on Homeland Security, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

The number of annual appointments of committees and membership would be reduced as these committees would be established during the session. The committees currently have well-defined topical areas which would apply to the interim work as well. The same committees will vet any legislation in the topical area during session, so this could expedite the legislative session work.

However, currently, interim committees have equal representation of the two major parties and of the two chambers, whereas the standing committees would not result in these balanced committees, unless the number of interim committee members was reduced from the full complement of session committee. Also, the number of committee members that would result from the combination of the two standing committees would not lead to cost-savings, but could actually increase interim costs.

Additionally, the chairmanship of the committee could be somewhat cumbersome as the combined interim committee would have two chairs. Currently, the chairmanship rotates between the two chambers and this practice could continue, or a third member could be appointed as interim committee chair.

Option 2- Realigning Statutory Committees. Through legislation, the existing statutory committees could be realigned into topical area committees, or the Legislative Council could annually establish temporary interim committees within a set of specific topical areas. This organization could greatly reduce the number of committees each legislator attends by broadening the subject area covered by each interim committee. It

could also serve to increase the number of legislators educated on critical state and local issues if appointments to the interim committees include legislators not currently serving on the area's standing committee.

Ex Officio and Lay Members. Under the current interim committee models, ex officio members and lay people are included among the interim committee membership. Ex officio and lay members add to a committee's deliberations by bringing expertise to the deliberations of the committee or by bringing about resolution of topics without additional legislation. Either reorganization option discussed in this report could support the appointment of ex officio or lay members as voting or nonvoting members, as in the current interim committee structure.

In a reorganization of interim committees, ex officio or lay members could replace some of legislative members suggested in the options outlined above or the number of committee members could be increased to include ex officio and lay members. The Legislative Council, on an annual basis, could decide to add ex officio or lay members, or the reorganization could stipulate the ex officio or lay members to be included in the new structure.

In this report, the ex officio and lay members have not been discussed or accounted for in the changes shown in Table 4 or Table 5. The number of committee members used in the models of the proposed options in Table 5 reflect only the number of legislative committee members, whereas the actual costs for 2011 include any nonlegislative member reimbursement.

Table 4. Topical Area Committees

		<u>Option 1</u>		<u>Option 2</u>
Topical Area	Includes	Interim Committee Composed of Members from... House Standing Committees	Senate Standing Committees	Interim Committees Composed of... A Consolidation of 2011 Interim Committees
Agriculture	All types of agribusiness and agricultural marketing. Includes domestic animals.	Agriculture and Rural Development	Agriculture and Natural Resources	State Fair Advisory Committee
Commerce and Economic Development	Regulated business concerns, professional licensing, insurance, and economic development issues, including tax credits.	Commerce, Small Business and Economic Development; Financial Institutions; Statutory Committee on Interstate and International Cooperation	Commerce & Economic Development; Insurance & Financial Institutions	Interim Study Committee on Insurance; Unemployment Insurance Oversight Committee*; Charity Gaming Study Committee*; Interim Study Committee on Economic Development*; Interim Study Committee on Employment Issues
Courts and Civil Procedures	Court administration, new courts, probation, and parole. Civil and probate law.	Judiciary; Courts and Criminal Code	Corrections, Criminal, and Civil Matters	Commission on Courts*; Probate Code Study Commission*
Criminal Law, Corrections, and Public Safety	Criminal code and juvenile law. All corrections issues, including prisoner treatment and issues concerning workplace safety, public safety personnel, and all veterans' issues.	Courts and Criminal Code; Veterans Affairs and Public Safety; Roads and Transportation	Corrections, Criminal, and Civil Matters; Homeland Security, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs	Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs*; Criminal Law and Sentencing Policy Study Committee*; Criminal Code Evaluation Committee*; Interim Study Committee on Driver Education
Developmental Disability and Mental Health	Developmental disabilities, including autism, and mental health and addiction.	Family, Children, and Human Affairs	Health and Provider Services; Public Policy	Commission on Autism*; Commission on Developmental Disabilities*; Commission on Mental Health and Addiction*
Education	Both K-12 and higher education.	Education	Education and Career Development	Educational Issues Study Committee
Environment	All environment-related issues.	Environmental Affairs	Energy and Environmental Affairs	Environmental Quality Service Council*
Families and Children	A broad category of child care, child support, family law, and human services issues.	Family, Children, and Human Affairs	Health and Provider Services; Public Policy	Child Custody and Support Advisory Committee*; Committee on Child Care*
Health and Health Finance	Hospital and other state health care funding, including Medicaid, health care provider issues, and public health.	Public Health; Ways and Means	Health and Provider Services; Appropriations	Health Finance Commission; Select Joint Committee on Medicaid Oversight

Table 4. Topical Area Committees

		<u>Option 1</u>		<u>Option 2</u>
Topical Area	Includes	Interim Committee Composed of Members from... House Standing Committees	Senate Standing Committees	Interim Committees Composed of... A Consolidation of 2011 Interim Committees
Local Government, Elections, and Apportionment	Redistricting and elections generally, annexation matters, local transportation funding, some drainage issues, and public libraries.	Elections and Apportionment; Local Government	Appointments and Claims; Elections; Local Government	Census Data Advisory Committee; Interim Committee on Redistricting
Natural Resources	Natural and cultural resources, including mining, water, and hunting.	Natural Resources	Agriculture and Natural Resources	Natural Resources Study Committee; Water Resources Study Committee
Public Employment and Pensions	All public employee pension and conditions of public employment.	Employment, Labor, and Pensions	Pensions and Labor	Pension Management Oversight Commission*
Public Policy and State Government	Topics not otherwise assigned, and state government organization.	Government and Regulatory Reform; Public Policy	Public Policy	Code Revision Commission*
Tax Policy	Anything to do with taxation, including personal and real property, income, sales, and death taxes. Finance of public entities, facilities, and projects.	Ways and Means	Appropriations; Tax and Fiscal Policy	Commission on State Tax and Financing Policy
Transportation and Motor Vehicles	Roads and other forms of public transportation, some motor vehicle licensing.	Roads and Transportation	Homeland Security, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs	Joint Study Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Assessment and Solutions
Utilities	Utility regulation.	Utilities and Energy	Utilities & Technology	Regulatory Flexibility Committee

*Committee members include ex officio or lay members.

Table 5. Model of Potential Reduction in Complexity and Change in Cost

	<u>Option 1</u>		<u>Option 2</u>	
	Full Membership of Session Standing Committees	Select Members of Session Standing Committees	Interim Committee Reorganization	2011 Interim
Number of Committees	16	16	16	30
Total House and Senate Appointments	Variable Members would include all members appointed to standing committees during the session.	Variable Members would a subset of the standing committee members.	192 Assumption: 12 committee members	392
Total Costs	\$157,320 to \$262,200 Assumptions: Combined standing committee total of 23 members (95% reimbursed) 3 or 5 meetings \$150/Member/Meeting	\$82,080 to \$136,800 Assumptions: 12 member subset the standing committee (95% reimbursed) 3 or 5 meetings \$150/Member/Meeting	\$82,080 to \$136,800 Assumptions: 12 members (95% reimbursed) 3 or 5 meetings \$150/Member/Meeting	\$167,377 to \$176,400 Minimum was the actual expenses incurred. Maximum assumptions: 392 members total 3 meetings \$150/Member/Meeting

Reducing the Number of Additional Topics. Each year, the Legislative Council works its way through a large list of study topics, and the size of the list has been growing over time. Limiting the type of topics that are best studied by interim committees could reduce the legislators' interim workload, free staff resources, and eliminate committee overlap. Limiting the number of study topics could result from more explicit information about the study topics prior to assignment or from implementing specific limits on assignment of committee work. Both of these ideas are explored more below.

Create a Framework for Study Topics. Since the Indiana Code or LC resolutions do not presently address the purpose of interim committees or the types of subjects that should be studied by interim committees, a permanent point of reference or framework for committees and topics might be useful. The General Assembly could articulate the overarching purpose for all study committees (e.g., to educate legislators or to expedite legislation) and the types of subjects that are most appropriate for interim study either in the statute or through LC resolutions. [If the framework was enacted in LC resolutions, the Legislative Council would be able to amend the framework with simple amendments to the resolution rather than passing legislation requiring the Governor's signature.]

This measure would allow the Legislative Council to rank the topics within the framework, facilitating any decisions that may be needed to limit the subjects studied. Also, creating a framework would require the least amount of change from the present system as it is only a statement of current practice. However, since a framework would not exclude any study topics as such, there is no direct correlation between creating a framework and reducing the number of study topics assigned each year.

Weighting, Focusing, and Constraining Topics. A different approach that would also create a framework for selecting topics and balancing workload is to rank the various topics by study days or other criteria such as urgency. Another step may be to focus the specific questions that the interim committee is to study with a brief, preparatory overview of the topic. Either or both of these methods, combined with a constraint established by the Legislative Council, would control the number of topics assigned within an interim.

Changes such as these to Indiana's system would require more staff involvement. From the information obtained from other states, the most common method to determine the amount of time a topic will require is to review committee history for comparable topics and the amount of time previously required to complete the study. To focus a topic, staff could assist a legislator proposing a study topic to prepare a one-page summary of the topic with the potential questions that are to be answered and the potential witnesses.

The more information provided on a study topic, the better understanding there will be of the workload created, and better preparation could lead to more successful resolutions of interim topics. However, a special session could interfere with the preparation for the interim.

Limit Topics to Those Approved by One or Both Chambers. Currently, about 45% of the additional topics assigned to interim committees come from legislation or resolutions approved by both chambers, and 82% of topics have been approved by at least one chamber. If the additional topics were limited to only topics that passed at least one or both chambers, the number of proposed topics during the session may actually increase if this encourages more legislation to be drafted or amended at the end of the session. However, overall, the number of additional topics that qualify for interim study consideration would be reduced as not all proposals would pass the new standard.

Imposing a restriction of this type on the additional topics could strip the flexibility from the leadership to add a topic that has not been vetted. Even assuming that leadership would add some topics to be considered, overall, there would be a reduction in the additional topics eligible to be considered each interim.

Appendix A
Legislative Committees That Met During the 2011 Interim Session

Appendix A. Legislative Committees That Met During the 2011 Interim Session

Census Data Advisory Committee - IC 2-5-19/Permanent

8 members – all legislators

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$862/1 meeting

Statutory Charge: The committee advises and assists the Bureau of the Census in the preparation and organization of decennial census data for use by the General Assembly in reapportioning the state House of Representatives, the state Senate, and the United States House of Representatives. It works with the Bureau of the Census in defining the boundaries of census blocks in Indiana and coordinates Indiana's efforts to obtain an accurate population count in each decennial census. The committee works with other state and federal agencies to assist in the local review program conducted in Indiana, and it works with the Code Revision Commission to prepare legislation for introduction in the regular session of the General Assembly that meets during the year of the effective date of the decennial census to propose amendments to Indiana law to reflect the population information obtained as a result of the decennial census. The committee studies costs and other relevant aspects of acquisition by the state of a geographic information system and makes recommendations concerning changes or amendments of the Elections Code to the General Assembly.

Child Custody and Support Advisory Committee - IC 33-24-11-1/Permanent

12 members - 8 legislators; judge or magistrate; an attorney; a custodial and a noncustodial parent

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$1,391/1 meeting

Statutory Charge: The committee reviews the child support guidelines adopted by the Supreme Court. The committee makes recommendations, if appropriate, concerning any amendments to the guidelines.

Code Revision Commission - IC 2-5-1.1-10/Permanent

15 members – 8 legislators; Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; the Attorney General; the Secretary of State (or their designees); an attorney; a law professor; an individual appointed by the Governor

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$2,143/5 meetings

Statutory Charge: The commission functions as an advisory body to the Legislative Council. In that capacity, the commission assists in supervising the compilation, computerization, indexing, and printing of the Indiana Code and the Indiana Administrative Code. The commission assists with the publication of the Indiana Register. It assists in developing standards for the codification and revision of statutes, and in developing and revising standards, techniques, format, and numbering system to be used in drafting rules for promulgation. The commission assists in developing and revising standards, techniques, and format to be used when preparing legislation for consideration by the General Assembly and with any other related tasks assigned by the Legislative Council.

Commission on Autism - IC 12-11-7-2/Permanent

14 members – 8 legislators; 6 lay members

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$3,517/6 meetings

Statutory Charge: The commission studies the service delivery system for individuals with autism and the families of individuals with autism, including an analysis of the number of Indiana citizens believed to have autism, the funding amounts and sources and the types of expenditures and services provided, the number of clients served, the relationships among agencies and organizations, and the residential options for individuals with autism. The commission studies the need and effectiveness of programs for individuals with autism and oversees and updates the development of a comprehensive plan for services for individuals of all ages with autism.

Commission on Courts - IC 33-23-10-1/June 30, 2015

13 members – 8 legislators; Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or designee; a sitting judge; a county commissioner; a county councilor; a circuit court recorder

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$3,830/5 meetings

Statutory Charge: The commission reviews and reports on all requests for new courts or changes in jurisdiction of existing courts and conducts research concerning requests for new courts or changes in jurisdiction of existing courts. The commission also reviews and reports on any other matters relating to court administration that the commission determines appropriate, including court fees, court personnel, salaries of court officers and personnel, jury selection, and any other issues relating to the operation of the courts.

Commission on Developmental Disabilities - IC 2-5-27.2/Permanent

12 members – 4 legislators; 3 members at large; 5 consumers, their families, or service provider representatives

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$2,960/3 meetings

Statutory Charge: The commission develops a long-range plan to stimulate further development of cost-effective, innovative models of community-based services. It reviews and makes recommendations regarding any unmet needs for developmental disability services. The commission studies and may make recommendations for the state to use state employees or contract with a private entity to manage and implement home- and community-based services waivers and regarding state funding needed to provide supplemental room and board costs for individuals who otherwise qualify for residential services under the home- and community-based services waivers. It monitors and recommends changes for improvements in the implementation of home- and community-based services waivers managed by the state or by a private entity. The commission reviews and makes recommendations regarding the implementation of the comprehensive plan prepared by the Developmental Disabilities Task Force and regarding the development by the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services of a statewide plan to address quality assurance in community based services. It annually reviews the Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program.

Commission on Mental Health and Addiction - IC 12-21-6.5/June 30, 2016

17 members – 4 legislators; 13 lay members

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$2,587/1 meeting

Statutory Charge: The commission studies and evaluates the funding system for mental health and addiction services in Indiana. It reviews and makes specific recommendations regarding the provision of mental health and addiction services delivered by community providers and state-operated hospitals and regarding any unmet need for publically supported mental health and addiction services. It monitors the implementation of managed care for a person with mental illness or an addictive disorder that is paid for in part or in whole by the state and makes recommendations regarding the commission's findings to the appropriate division or department of state government.

Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs - IC 2-5-20/Permanent

12 members – 8 legislators; 4 lay members

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$3,623/1 meeting

Statutory Charge: The commission studies matters relating to veterans and veterans' affairs and matters relating to the active and reserve members of the armed forces of the United States. The commission may study other topics assigned by the Legislative Council or as directed by the commission's chairman. The commission shall study veterans' procurement preferences and report before November 1, 2011.

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The commission is charged with studying the following topics: veterans' procurement preferences (HEA 1183) and the needs of all returning Hoosier veterans (HR 23).

Commission on State Tax and Financing Policy - IC 2-5-3-2/Permanent

5 members – all legislators

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$4,533/7 meetings

Statutory Charge: The commission studies and investigates the present state, county, and city tax structure of the state of Indiana; its revenue-producing characteristics and effects upon the economy of the state of Indiana; its equalities and fairness; the enforcement policies and administrative practices related to that tax structure; and the costs of collection in relationship to the burden of the tax. In addition, the commission examines overall administrative matters, fiscal matters, and procedural problems of the various departments of the state, county, and city governments as they relate to tax and financing policy. The commission makes recommendations concerning guiding policies that will assure the accomplishment of the policy expressed in this chapter.

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The commission is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. How the Indiana income tax structure, including existing and potentially new income tax credits and deductions, may influence a senior's decision on residency in Indiana after retirement (SEA 39);
- B. How each of the local option income taxes imposed under IC 6-3.5 affects the ability of political subdivisions to provide services to: (1) a facility that employs a significant number of individuals who reside outside the county in which the facility is located; and (2) the individuals who reside outside the county in which a facility described in clause (1) is located and commute to a job at that facility (SEA 39);
- C. Whether counties and other political subdivisions should be provided additional financing options for providing services to the facilities and individuals described in subdivision B (SEA 39);
- D. How local option income taxes should be distributed within a county to local units of government (SEA 39);
- E. Transit funding and whether and to what extent transit funding should be a state or local responsibility (HEA 1001);
- F. Issues related to fire protection territories, including the following: (1) the formation process for territories; (2) the establishment of tax rates and tax levies for territories, including tax rates for agricultural land; and (3) other issues as determined by the commission; (HEA 1004, HB 1007);
- G. All aspects, including the advantages and disadvantages, of phasing out the state inheritance tax (HEA 1004, HB 1007, SB 589);
- H. Issues related to township assistance provided in Calumet Township in Lake County, including any effects on taxpayers in the town of Griffith (HEA 1004, HB 1007);
- I. Whether commercial rental property should for property tax purposes be valued by using the lowest valuation determined by applying each of the appraisal approaches used for determining the assessed valuation of residential rental property under IC 6-1.1-4-39 (HEA 1004, HB 1007);
- J. Issues related to periodic or "rolling" reassessment (HEA 1004, HB 1007);
- K. Whether a tax incentive for logistics and homeland security expenditures will provide a net gain in tax revenue and investment in Indiana (HEA 1004, HB 1007);
- L. Methods for eliminating or reducing the personal property tax statewide and the appropriateness of allowing local government the option of eliminating or abating personal property tax, including the authority to offer deductions or exemptions for new investment and economic development purposes (HEA 1004, HB 1007);
- M. Differences between the eligibility of nonprofit entities for federal income tax exemptions and the eligibility of nonprofit entities for Indiana property tax exemptions (HEA 1004, HB 1007);
- N. Issues related to sales tax holidays (HEA 1004, HB 1007);
- O. Internet sales and taxation (HEA 1004, HB 1007);
- P. Whether county government should be granted the authority to exempt personal property (HB 1007);
- Q. Whether property tax credits and deductions for residential property to which the seller of the property was entitled should be transferred to the buyer in the year of the sale if the property is determined to be exempt for the year following the year of the sale (HB 1007);
- R. Issues related to the earned income tax credit (HB 1007);
- S. Modernizing Indiana legislative timelines for assessment and budget cycles to address current taxation practices and changes in technology (SR 83); and
- T. The history and use of historic preservation tax credits and the economic benefits of expanding the availability and increasing the statutory limits of such credits (Representative Clere).

Committee on Child Care - IC 12-17.2-3.3/Permanent

13 members – 4 legislators; Division of Family Resources Director; Department of Workforce Development Commissioner; Secretary of Commerce; State Fire Marshal; Superintendent of Public Instruction; Public Health Commissioner; 2 representatives of private business; a child care advocate

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$2,333/1 meeting

Statutory Charge: The committee studies the system of child care regulation and may report and make recommendations concerning the system of child care regulation to the Legislative Council by October 31 of each year. The committee's program of study must include consideration of the effect of child care and child care regulation on families; encouragement of high quality child care; issues related to the child care workforce, including job satisfaction, compensation, and turnover; a review of child care models; ensuring the safety of children; any need for reorganization and refocusing of governmental agencies responsible for regulation of child care; and parental rights.

Criminal Law and Sentencing Policy Study Committee - IC 2-5-31.4/Permanent

14 members – 8 legislators; the Executive Director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Indiana; the Executive Director of the Public Defender Council; an individual appointed by the Probation Officers' Professional Association; a circuit or superior court judge; Commissioner of the Department of Correction; Chairperson of the Parole Board

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$4,489/3 meetings

Statutory Charge: The committee evaluates criminal laws, sentencing laws, and policies as they relate to the purposes of the criminal justice and corrections systems; the availability of sentencing options; and the inmate population in Department of Correction facilities. The committee may make recommendations to the General Assembly for the modification of sentencing laws and policies and for the addition, deletion, or expansion of sentencing options. The committee conducts a continuing study of the laws relating to the investigation of crimes; the prosecution of crimes; criminal procedures; alternative sentencing programs; the Department of Correction; parole; probation; community corrections; home detention programs; criminal registries; victim rights; the classification of criminal offenses into felony and misdemeanor categories; sex offenders; and juvenile offenders. It studies federal requirements or incentives for states to pass certain laws or establish specific programs and determines the long-range needs of the criminal justice and corrections systems, and recommends policy priorities for those systems. The committee identifies critical problems in the criminal justice and corrections systems and recommends strategies to solve the problems; assesses the cost effectiveness of the use of state and local funds in the criminal justice and corrections systems; and proposes plans, programs, and legislation for improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice and corrections systems. The committee may study other topics assigned by the Legislative Council or as directed by the committee chair.

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The committee is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. The laws relating to: (a) the investigation of crimes; (b) the prosecution of crimes; (c) criminal procedures; (d) alternative sentencing programs; (e) the Department of Correction; (f) parole;
- (g) probation; (h) community corrections; (i) home detention programs; (j) criminal registries; (k) victim rights; (l) the classification of criminal offenses into felony and misdemeanor categories; (m) sex offenders; and (n) juvenile offenders; (SEA 90, 490, HEA 1153);
- B. Federal requirements or incentives for states to pass certain laws or establish specific programs (SEA 90, SEA 490, HEA 1153);
- C. The long-range needs of the criminal justice and corrections systems and recommend policy priorities for those systems (SEA 90, 490, HEA 1153);
- D. Critical problems in the criminal justice and corrections systems and strategies to solve the problems (SEA 90, SEA 490, HEA 1153);
- E. The cost effectiveness of the use of state and local funds in the criminal justice and corrections systems (SEA 90, SEA 490, HEA 1153);
- F. Plans, programs, and legislation for improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice and corrections systems (SEA 90, 490, HEA 1153);
- G. The proposal that this committee be required to review all requests for proposed legislative or constitutional changes in criminal law, criminal procedure, the law governing delinquent acts, or juvenile court procedures related to alleged delinquent acts before they are considered by the House of Representatives or Senate, unless the proposed change in criminal law has been approved by certain legislative committees and specific amounts of money have been appropriated to the Department of Correction if certain department expenses will increase (SB 558, HB 1571);
- H. Truth in sentencing, good-time credit and earned credit time, and felony classifications (SB 561, HB 1530);
- I. Developing a criminal information packet that would contain all relevant information that pertains to an offender's dangerousness or lack of dangerousness, including: (1) the original charges; (2) the terms of any plea agreement; (3) whether the jury found the offender guilty of lesser included offenses; and (4) any other information that would allow a more accurate assessment of an offender's character (SB 561);
- J. The criminal laws regarding marijuana (SR 20, 70); and
- K. Issues regarding the establishment of a child protection registry (SR 84).

Environmental Quality Service Council - IC 13-13-7/Permanent

18 members – 8 legislators; 9 lay members appointed by the Governor; the Commissioner of Indiana Department of Environmental Management (nonvoting)

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$9,483/5 meetings

Statutory Charge: The council studies issues designated by the Legislative Council and, in 2011, each program administered by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for which the program's annual cost of administration exceeds the annual revenue generated by the program and evaluates whether to recommend measures to reduce or eliminate the excess cost. In 2012, the council will review the effectiveness of the electronic waste provisions and appropriate guidelines for the Indiana Recycling Market Development Board. It advises the IDEM Commissioner on policy issues and reviews the mission and goals of the IDEM and evaluates the implementation of the mission. The council evaluates for the General Assembly the resources and structural capabilities of the IDEM to meet its priorities; and program requirements and resource requirements for the IDEM. The council serves as a forum for citizens, the regulated community, and legislators to discuss broad policy directions.

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The council is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. Topics related to the supply and quality of water in the Great Lakes as set forth in IC 13-13-7-9(6) (SEA 157);
- B. Federal funds for water protection, infrastructure conditions, and regulatory matters affecting shipping, and other relevant matters (SEA 157);
- C. Each program administered by IDEM for which the annual revenue generated by the program exceeds IDEM's annual cost to administer the program (SEA 433); and
- D. The actual and potential air emissions created by the distillation of mint and whether the distillation of mint should be considered a farming operation (as defined in 326 IAC 1-2-28) for the purpose of requiring a permit under IC 13-17. The council shall prepare a report on these topics and advise IDEM on the feasibility of establishing permit requirements for mint distillation operations under IC 13-17 (HEA 1451).

Health Finance Commission - IC 2-5-23/Permanent

23 members - The Senate Health and Provider Services Committee and the House Public Health Committee

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$13,639/4 meetings

Statutory Charge: The commission may study any topic selected by the chairman of the commission; assigned by the Legislative Council; or that concerns the delivery, payment, and organization of health care services; rules that pertain to health care delivery, payment, and services that are under the authority of any board or agency of state government; and (C) the implementation of long-term care services.

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The commission is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. Possible prohibitions on certain insurer and health maintenance organization activities related to outpatient benefits (SEA 178);
- B. The credentialing of vendors in hospitals (SEA 199);
- C. Whether to require a hospital to report to the state Department of Health the immunization rate for influenza for the individuals who work in the hospital, including employees, staff, and contractors and the manner and format for the report (SEA 366);
- D. Whether a pharmacist should be required to notify the prescribing physician and inform the patient if the pharmacist selects a drug other than the brand name drug listed on an antiepileptic drug prescription; and whether a pharmacist should be required to dispense a prescription in a manner to allow label accessibility to an individual who is blind (SB 25);
- E. Legislation necessary to design, establish, and implement the exchanges for health insurance coverage, including the following: (1) whether an exchange should be administered by an agency of the state or a nonprofit organization; (2) any necessary governing structure for an exchange; (3) authority and responsibilities of an exchange, including procedures for staff hiring and procurement of resources; (4) responsibilities of state agencies in coordination of activities with an exchange; and (5) other recommendations determined appropriate by the Health Finance Commission; (SB580);
- F. Innovations in nursing home services and housing (SC 11); and
- G. Enhancing employment and training opportunities for Indiana's citizens with disabilities through studying the feasibility of establishing a nonprofit business enterprises preference program for contracting or subcontracting with prime contractors for products and services provided by reviewing and making recommendations of how to maximize employment opportunities through IC 16-32-2 and IC 5-22-13 (SC 53, HR 40).

Interim Study Committee on Insurance - IC 2-5-33.3/Permanent

8 members - 4 members of the House and Senate standing committees concerning insurance matters

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$4,408/2 meetings

Statutory Charge: The committee studies insurance in Indiana including issues determined by the chairperson of the committee, assigned by the Legislative Council, regulated under the Insurance title of the Indiana Code, and worker's compensation insurance.

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The committee is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. Issues determined by the chairperson of the committee (HEA 1233);
- B. Issues regulated under IC 27 (HEA 1233);
- C. Worker's compensation insurance (HEA 1233);
- D. Health plan access to health care providers (HB 1582);
- E. Health care service prices and information (HB 1582);
- F. Health care provider office billing in connection with hospital charges (HB 1582); and
- G. The appropriate statute of limitations for making a claim for occupational disease compensation (SB 576).

Natural Resources Study Committee - IC 2-5-5-1/Permanent

8 members - all legislators

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$3,146/3 meetings

Statutory Charge: The committee conducts a continuing study of the laws relating to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and may propose legislation to better serve the citizens of Indiana. The committee directs its attention to consultations with representatives of the DNR and citizens of Indiana for the purpose of proposing legislation to repeal outmoded or unnecessary laws; consolidate and restate existing laws; improve coordination of state laws with federal laws; and add or amend laws that will further the purpose for which the DNR was created. The committee advises and assists the DNR in programming its activities and in developing a long-range plan for land acquisition, capital improvement, and development of facilities.

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The committee is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. The present and future use of Versailles Lake to meet the needs of the public water supply of the surrounding communities (HB 1051);
- B. Options to increase the volume of water in Versailles Lake, including transforming Versailles Lake into a reservoir (HB 1051);
- C. Options to increase and enhance the recreational opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat at Versailles Lake (HB 1051);
- D. Potential funding sources to pay for any recommended changes made to Versailles Lake (HB 1051);
- E. Any other topic related to Versailles Lake or the public water supply of surrounding communities (HB 1051);
- F. The extraction and severance of minerals in Indiana (SR 66, HR 68); and
- G. Whether customers only frequenting a restaurant within a state park should pay an entrance fee (Representative Cheatham).

Pension Management Oversight Commission - IC 2-5-12/Permanent

12 members – 8 legislators; 4 lay members

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$5,882/3 meetings

Statutory Charge: The commission studies the investment and management practices of the boards of the public retirement funds and determines what constitutes adequate wage replacement levels at retirement for public employees. It studies the impact of federal law and proposals concerning pensions, annuities, and retirement benefits; the state's retirement funds; and the methods and levels of funding for public retirement funds. The commission may study other topics as assigned by the Legislative Council or as directed by its chairman.

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The commission is charged with studying cost-of-living adjustments or other increases in the survivor benefits for widows of judges (Senator Long).

Probate Code Study Commission - IC 2-5-16-2/Permanent

16 members – 6 legislators; 10 lay members

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$2,538/1 meeting

Statutory Charge: The commission carries out a program to study and recommend to the General Assembly changes needed in the probate code, the trust code, and other statutes affecting the administration of a decedent's estate, guardianships, probate jurisdiction, trusts, or fiduciaries. The Legislative Council may refer any issue related to probate or trusts and fiduciaries to the commission for study.

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The commission is charged with studying how the probate code should be amended to permit the sale of real estate located in Indiana to satisfy a claim by the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning, the United States, the state, or a subdivision of the state against a decedent regardless of whether letters testamentary or administration are issued within five months of the decedent's death (SEA 331).

Regulatory Flexibility Committee - IC 8-1-2.5-9 and IC 8-1-2.6-4/Permanent

23 members - House and Senate standing committees that have subject matter jurisdiction that most closely relates to the electricity, gas, energy, policy, and telecommunications jurisdiction of the committee. (In 2011, this was Utilities and Energy in the House and Utilities and Technology in the Senate).

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$7,662/2 meetings

Statutory Charge: The committee monitors changes in the telephone industry and changes and competition in the energy utility industry. In addition to reviewing the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission report, the committee issues a report and recommendations to the Legislative Council before November 1 of each year that includes a review of the effects of competition or changes in the energy utility industry and the impact of the competition or changes on the residential rates, the status of modernization of the energy utility facilities in Indiana and the incentives required to further enhance this infrastructure, the effects on economic development of this modernization, the traditional method of regulating energy utilities and the method's effectiveness, the economic and social effectiveness of traditional energy utility service pricing, the effects of legislation enacted by the United States Congress, and all other energy utility issues the committee considers appropriate.

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The committee is charged with studying the following topics:

A. Whether video service franchise fees paid to local units under: (1) a certificate of franchise authority issued by the commission under IC 8-1-34 or (2) an unexpired local franchise issued by a local unit before July 1, 2006, are used by local units for purposes related to the provision of video service in the units and in a manner consistent with IC 8-1-34 (HEA 1131);

B. Whether the video service franchise fees described in A have an anticompetitive effect on the pricing and provision of video service in Indiana (The IURC shall provide any data or other information requested by the committee to conduct this study. However, this subsection does not empower the commission to disclose confidential and proprietary business plans and other confidential information without adequate protection of the information. The commission shall exercise all necessary caution to avoid disclosure of confidential information supplied under this subsection.) (HEA 1131); and

C. Disproportionate water and sewer rates (HR 15).

Select Joint Commission on Medicaid Oversight - IC 2-5-26/Permanent

12 members - all legislators

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$7,063/3 meetings

Statutory Charge: The commission determines whether the contractor for processing Medicaid provider claims for payment has properly performed the terms of the contract with the state, and it determines whether a managed care organization that provides Medicaid services has properly performed the terms of its contract with the state. The commission studies and proposes legislative and administrative procedures that could help reduce the amount of time needed to process Medicaid claims and eliminate reimbursement backlogs, delays, and errors. It oversees the implementation of a case-mix reimbursement system developed by the office and designed for Indiana Medicaid-certified nursing facilities. The commission studies and investigates any other matter related to Medicaid and all matters related to the implementation of the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The commission is charged with studying the proposed state plan amendment, including an advisory recommendation to the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning concerning the state plan amendment (SEA 461).

State Fair Advisory Committee - IC 15-13-6-1/Permanent

8 members – all legislators

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$1,382/2 meetings

Statutory Charge: The committee serves as a liaison between the State Fair Commission, the Board of Trustees of the Barn, the Board, and the General Assembly. It reviews policies affecting the activities of the Commission, the Barn, the State Fair, the facilities at the fairgrounds, and the property owned by the Commission. The committee provides long-range guidance and annually reviews budgets and other accounts and reports financial conditions to the Legislative Council. The committee advises the Budget Committee regarding appropriations and other financial matters concerning the State Fair and its facilities and makes recommendations concerning legislation affecting the State Fair and its facilities.

Unemployment Insurance Oversight Committee - IC 2-5-30/Permanent

11 members - 6 legislators; 4 lay members; Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development or a designee (nonvoting)

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$1,597/4 meetings

Statutory Charge: The committee oversees the implementation of unemployment insurance legislation enacted by the General Assembly in 2009 and the administration of the unemployment insurance system by the Department of Workforce Development. It makes recommendations to improve the proper collection of employer contributions and reimbursements, and the determination of eligibility for and the payment of benefits. The committee monitors the solvency of the Unemployment Benefit Trust Fund and makes recommendations to improve the solvency of the fund. It studies and may make recommendations concerning approaches taken by other states to improve the solvency of unemployment insurance benefit trust funds.

Water Resources Study Committee - IC 2-5-25/Permanent

12 members – all legislators

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$4,144/2 meetings

Statutory Charge: The committee studies and may make recommendations concerning all matters relating to the surface and ground water resources of Indiana, including the usage, quality, and quantity of water resources, and issues concerning diffused surface water, the common enemy doctrine of law, and runoff.

Charity Gaming Study Committee - IC 2-5-31.9-1/January 1, 2012

13 members – 8 legislators; 4 lay members; Executive Director of the Indiana Gaming Commission or designee (nonvoting)

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$6,008/1 meeting

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The committee is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. The requirements for obtaining a charity gaming license (SEA 340);
- B. Whether qualified organizations should be permitted to use charity gaming proceeds to pay the salaries and benefits of the qualified organization's employees (SEA 340);
- C. The reporting requirements for conducting charity gaming events (SEA 340);
- D. Whether qualified organizations should be permitted to conduct charity gaming events more frequently (SEA 340);
- E. The hours in which charity gaming events may be conducted (SEA 340); and
- F. Issues related to licensing and regulating national organizations and their affiliates (SEA 340).

Criminal Code Evaluation Committee - PL 182 – 2009ss/December 31, 2011

17 members – 8 legislators; Attorney General; Department of Correction Commissioner; Chief Justice of Supreme Court; Executive Director of the Prosecuting Attorney’s Council; and the Public Defender Council (or a designee of these positions); 2 judges; 2 law professors

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$16,113/2 meetings

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The commission is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. Child solicitation (IC 35-42-4-6), including whether there should be an increased penalty for a person who is at least 21 years of age to knowingly or intentionally solicit a child less than 14 years of age, or an individual the person believes to be a child less than 14 years of age (HEA 1083);
- B. Child trafficking, including whether the General Assembly should enact a crime of promotion of child trafficking and if promotion of child trafficking should be added to the list of sex offenses under IC 11-8-8-4.5 (HEA 1083);
- C. Sex crimes against children, including whether there should be an increased penalty or creation of a new crime for the commission of a sex crime by a person at least 21 years of age with whom the child victim has a relationship of trust or emotional dependence, including a school employee, school volunteer, counselor, therapist, member of the clergy, and medical personnel (HEA 1083);
- D. The appropriate statute of limitations for sex crimes against children, including child molesting (IC 35-42-4-3), child exploitation (IC 35-42-4-4(b)), and sexual misconduct with a minor (IC 35-42-4-9) (HEA 1083);
- E. Whether to elevate the offense of the following: (1) child molesting from a Class C felony to a Class B felony if the child is compelled to submit to the fondling or touching by force or the threat of force; and (2) child solicitation:
 - (a) from a Class D felony to a Class C felony if a person solicits a child and performs an overt act demonstrating an intent to physically meet the child;
 - (b) from a Class C felony to a Class B felony if a person solicits a child by means of a computer and performs an overt act demonstrating an intent to physically meet the child; and
 - (c) to a Class A felony if a person solicits a child by means of a computer and has a previous conviction for soliciting a child by means of a computer (HEA 1324);
- F. The provisions in IC 4 and IC 5 addressing and governing the conduct of state workers and determine if these provisions should be reorganized and potentially recodified to promote clarity and understanding (Speaker Bosma); and
- G. Recodification of the criminal code.

Interim Study Committee on Driver Education - PL 101-2009/December 31, 2014

12 members – all legislators

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$7,637/4 meetings

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: Not in the 2011 LC resolution, carried over from a prior year.

Interim Study Committee on Economic Development - IC 2-5-31.8-1/December 31, 2014

12 members – all lay members

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$7,693/2 meetings

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The committee is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. Best practices in state and local economic development policies and activities (HEA 1004, SB 589, HB 1007, HB 1466);
- B. The use and effectiveness of tax credits and deductions (HEA 1004, SB 589, HB 1007, HB 1466);
- C. Whether there are any specific sectors of the economy for which Indiana might have comparative advantages over other states (HEA 1004, SB 589, HB 1007, HB 1466);
- D. The extent to which Indiana's tax laws encourage business investment, and any improvements that might be made to Indiana's tax laws (HEA 1004, SB 589, HB 1007, HB 1466);
- E. The extent to which Indiana's education systems support economic development (HEA 1004, SB 589, HB 1007, HB 1466);
- F. The benefits of existing community revitalization enhancement districts and possible new community revitalization enhancement districts as an economic development tool (HEA 1004, SB 589, HB 1007, HB 1466);
- G. Any other issue as directed by the committee's co-chairs (HEA 1004, SB 589, HB 1007, HB 1466);
- H. The effect IC 5-22-15-20.9 and IC 36-1-12-22 will have on nonlocal businesses (Senator Yoder); and
- I. Unfair practice laws and the use of stolen information technology by businesses that offer products for sale in the state of Indiana (SR 57).

Educational Issues Study Committee - IC 2-5-33.5-1/December 31, 2011

23 members – all legislators

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$7,221/3 meetings

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The committee is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. The causes of low graduation rates in Indiana high schools (SEA 85, HB 1369);
- B. Best practices that increase graduation rates in high schools in Indiana and other states (SEA 85, HB 1369);
- C. Training and technical assistance opportunities for high schools to effectively address low graduation rates (SEA 85, HB 1369);
- D. The impact that school counselors, teachers, school administrators, and parents have on graduation rates (SEA 85, HB 1369);
- E. Superintendent compensation throughout Indiana, including salary and salary-related fringe benefits and accident, sickness, health, dental, and retirement benefits, as well as whether the establishment of a statewide salary schedule based upon school corporation ADM would be beneficial to governing bodies and the state (HB 1369); and
- F. The placement of students in special education programs and the waiver process for high school graduation for students in special education programs (HB 1380).

Interim Study Committee on Employment Issues - IC 2-5-34-1/December 31, 2011

9 members – all legislators

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$11,947/3 meetings

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The committee is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. Laws related to the issue of whether or not an employee should be required to join an employee organization as a condition of employment (HEA 1001); and
- B. Project labor agreements (HEA 1001).

Interim Study Committee on Redistricting - LCR 11-01

12 members – all legislators

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$4,206/3 meetings

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The committee is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. Redistricting and make recommendations on ways to improve the redistricting process;
- B. Proposals to amend the Constitution of the State of Indiana to establish an independent commission to draw legislative and congressional district boundaries, beginning with the 2021 redistricting;
- C. The successes and failures of redistricting commissions in other states and analyze the results of the 2010 election in Indiana and other states to make recommendations to the General Assembly; and
- D. Certain standards for drawing legislative and congressional districts.

Joint Study Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Assessment and Solutions - IC

2-5-28.5-1/January 1, 2016

23 members - House Roads and Transportation and Senate Homeland Security, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs

2011 Interim Expense/Meetings: \$13,335/2 meetings

Additional Topics Assigned by LC Resolution: The committee is charged with studying the following topics:

- A. The condition of Indiana's transportation infrastructure in both the public and private sectors (HEA 1371);
- B. In connection with the Indiana Department of Transportation and other interested parties, project Indiana's transportation demands through 2035 (HEA 1371);
- C. Whether Indiana's existing transportation infrastructure is capable of meeting the transportation demands projected under B (HEA 1371);
- D. The appropriate roles and responsibilities for the state and county and municipal governments and the private sector in meeting Indiana's projected transportation demands (HEA 1371);
- E. Potential funding sources for both public and private transportation and infrastructure projects (HEA 1371);
- F. Report its findings to the Governor and, in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6, the General Assembly (HEA 1371);
- G. The use of motorized bicycles and motor scooters in Indiana, including the following topics: (1) definitions of motorized bicycle, motor scooter, moped, and motor-driven cycle and (2) issues related to internal combustion power and battery power of motor vehicles described in subdivision (1); (HEA 1334, HB 1426);
- H. Registration of, taxation of and insurance requirements for motor vehicles described in subdivision G(1) (HEA 1334, HB 1426); and
- I. The necessity of informing governmental bodies about proposed state highway projects that require the highway to be closed at least five consecutive days (SC 50).